

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, and 7-22 remain pending in this application.

Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner allowed claims 9-12. The Examiner admits that *Zhou* at least does not teach or even suggest a feed back loop having an input and an output terminal, a switch capable of coupling the input and output terminal of the feedback loop in response to receiving a control signal. For at least this reason, independent claims 19 and 22, and any claims depending therefrom, are also allowable. Similar to claim 9, claim 19 calls for a first path having an input terminal and an output terminal and further specifies coupling the input and the output terminal of the first path in response to receiving a control signal. In both the claims, claim 9 and 19, the path includes at least one component that processes voice signals. Thus, claim 19, as well as its dependent claims, is allowable for at least the same reason claim 9 is allowable. Moreover, claim 22 is also allowable for at least the same reason.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7, 8, 13-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,178,241 (*Zhou*). The Examiner asserts that *Zhou*, at col. 8, line 58 through col. 9, line 39, teaches the features of claim 1. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Among other things, claim 1 calls for employing a common analog-to-digital (A/D) converter for the purposes of processing voice signals, DC feed control, and ring trip detection. The patent specification, for example, describes one embodiment in which the A/D converter 305 of Figure 2 may be utilized for the various specified purposes. *Zhou* at least does not teach using an A/D converter for the purposes of processing voice signals, DC feed control, and ring trip detection. The Examiner refers to Figure 8 in an attempt to sustain the rejection. Figure 8, however, does not disclose or even suggest using the converter 802 to process voice signals. As

shown in Figure 8, and discussed in the accompanying description, the A/D converter 802 is employed for DC feed and for ring-trip detection (see element 810), and not for voice processing. Thus, for this reason alone, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable. Furthermore, claims 7-8 and 13-18 are also allowable for at least this reason.

In light of the reasons presented above, Applicant respectfully asserts that the pending claims are allowable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Houston, Texas telephone number (713) 934-4064 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON, P.C.
CUSTOMER NO. 23720

By: 

Ruben S. Bains, Reg. No. 46,532
10333 Richmond, Suite 1100
Houston, Texas 77042
(713) 934-7000
(713) 934-7011 (facsimile)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)